

with plenty of rain to compensate for the lack of it during the previous long spell of drought. But the temperature maintained itself in the upper 60's until the third week, when it rose to over 70°F. for several days with plenty of Pierids still flying and a good many Red Admirals about on September 26th. The following evening *Dasycampa rubiginea* D. & S. appeared on some ivy growing on a wall at Horsell. The feature of early October was the reappearance of Peacocks, chiefly attracted to michaelmas daisies and even occasionally to m.v. light-trap. There seems very definite evidence that these were the product of a second brood, since the summer emergence was already about the middle of July. These autumn weeks were very pleasant with no frost and fairly equable temperatures. On October 8th I motored to Winterbourne Stickland, near Blandford, to stay with my relatives, but little was moving there or the next day when I visited Mr. and Mrs. R. Hatton at Holt, near Wimborne, or later that day at Mr. N. G. Wykes at Uploders, near Bridport. However, *Macroglossa stellatarum* L. appeared in my relatives' garden on the 10th and there were quite a few Red Admirals on decaying fruit in the garden of Mr. G. Nixon and of Mr. D. Russwurm in the New Forest on the 11th. The congenial conditions persisted for nearly the whole of October. Peacocks were still about on the 24th, also when I accompanied the Rev. Harbottle on a visit to Dr. H. B. Kettlewell at Steeple Barton, near Oxford, on the 25th. But nothing was attracted by my Heath light on the borders of Chobham Common on the 27th.

November opened with the thermometer still in the upper 50's, with a good assortment of the later geometers coming to m.v. light. On November 5th I left for the Seychelles Islands and Kenya, returning on the 27th to find that winter had virtually set in and the season had ended on a distinctly cool note.

It had been one of the most remarkable years of the century and 1976 will long be remembered for its profusion of lepidoptera and tropical temperatures at the turn of the summer. The great invasion of *Nymphalis antiopa* L. which simulated that of 1872, together with the huge immigration of *Herse convolvuli* L. and other migrants in late August, made it a veritable *annus mirabilis* which it will take long to surpass.

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LARVAE OF *CUCULLIA VERBASCI* L. (MULLEIN MOTH) ON *BUDDLEIA DAVIDII*. — On 6th July, 1977, I was interested to find several larvae of this moth feeding on *Buddleia davidii* in this district. South (1961) does not mention this pabulum although the book states that the species has been noted on *B. globosa*, the more usual foodplants being mullein (*Verbascum* sp.) and figwort (*Scrophularia* sp.). Incidentally, these larvae are particularly numerous at the moment on mulleins in this locality. — F. B. S. ANTRAM, Valley Farm, Wissett, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0JJ.